UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
55th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 8 December 1993
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/48/SR.55
2 March 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

93-82906 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of Côte d'Ivoire

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the entire Committee, extended his condolences to the delegation of the Côte d'Ivoire on the death of the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, and asked Committee members to observe a minute of silence in his memory.

2. Mr. DO NACIMIENTO (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African Countries, paid a tribute to the outstanding political qualities of President Houphouët-Boigny, his long experience in African affairs and his contribution to the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the peoples of the whole world, and extended his sincere condolences to the delegation of the Côte d'Ivoire.

3. Mrs. KABA (Côte D'Ivoire) said that Mr. Houphouët-Boigny had died at the age of 88, in his native village, on 7 December 1993, which was a symbolic date because it marked the 33rd anniversary of the independence of his country, to which he had devoted two decades of his political life. As the leader of the Côte d'Ivoire since 1960, he had succeeded in establishing democratic institutions and laying the essential foundations for his country's economic development. He was truly the "father of his country", the "old man" of whom all his countrymen were proud and whose loss they would feel deeply.

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued) (A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1, L.81)

Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1: Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

4. The CHAIRMAN noted that the statement of financial implications for the draft resolution was contained in document A/C.3/48/L.81.

5. Mr. DE BARROS (Secretariat) said that, for technical reasons, it had not been possible to incorporate the amendments made in the text of the draft resolution into the document before the Committee. The title of the draft resolution had been amended to read: "Human rights situation in the territory of former Yugoslavia: violations of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)"; the word "Serbia" in paragraph 17 should be replaced by "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" and paragraph 33 should read: "Decides to continue the consideration of the question at its forty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled 'Human rights questions'".

(Mr. de Barros)

6. He announced that the following countries had become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

7. Mrs. AL-HAMAMI (Yemen) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. The CHAIRMAN announced that Afghanistan, Andorra, Kuwait, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Sudan had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

9. Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

10. Mr. TURK (Slovenia) said that his delegation had associated itself with the adoption of the draft resolution because it was an important international document which defined clearly and specifically violations of human rights and the ways to put an end to them. Slovenia had not joined the co-sponsors of the draft resolution because it could not support the amendment made in the title at the last moment. The expression "in the territory of former Yugoslavia" lent itself to confusion and referred to an entity which no longer existed and had been replaced by successor States each of which should be considered on the basis of its individual characteristics.

11. Mr. PARSHIKOV (Russian Federation) said that although his delegation had not opposed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote that did not mean it approved all of its provisions. It reserved the right to explain its position when the text was submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at a plenary meeting.

12. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that her delegation had joined the consensus but not the sponsors of the draft resolution because it considered the term "territory of former Yugoslavia" inaccurate.

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/48/L.77)

(c) HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.77 entitled "Human rights and progress in science and technology"

13. The CHAIRMAN noted that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

14. Mr. LEPESHKO (Belarus) presented orally four amendments to the draft resolution which had been agreed on during the morning. After the words "information technology" in the second line of the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "and that elicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste" should be added. In the eleventh preambular paragraph, the word "ensure" should be replaced by the words "work towards". In paragraph 2, after the words "ecological environment" the words "that is, inter alia, measures against the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste" should be added. In paragraph 3, the words "emphasizes that" should be replaced by the words "underlines the need that many advances in scientific knowledge"; and a phrase should be added after the words "heritage of humanity" reading ", while stressing the importance of the respect by all countries of the intellectual property rights". He also announced that Andorra had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

15. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that he had been somewhat surprised by the amendments announced by the representative of Belarus and did not know whether they had actually been accepted by all the sponsors of the draft resolution. He asked the Committee to postpone a decision on the draft resolution until a later date because those amendments had far-reaching consequences for the developing countries and it might be necessary for them to consult further on the subject. Two amendments in particular had important implications, firstly, the replacement of the word "ensure" by the words "work towards" diluted the concept of the right to development which had been recognized by the Third Committee and recently at the Vienna Conference; that amendment was therefore totally unacceptable to his delegation. Moreover, the introduction in paragraph 3 of the idea of intellectual property rights, although it might be justified in speaking of science and technology in general was unnecessary in the case of that paragraph, which dealt with specific subjects such as health, education and housing, and other social areas which were of great importance for the developing countries. His delegation would therefore be unable to join the consensus if the amendments proposed by Belarus were retained.

16. Ms. DIOP (Senegal), supporting the Indian representative's statement, said that her delegation had been informed of the amendments presented by Belarus too late to have received specific instructions on them. In the case of the eleventh preambular paragraph, she proposed, in a spirit of compromise, that the word "ensure" should be retained or, at most, replaced by "work towards the use of those sciences and technologies to promote". After expressing regret that Senegal, an independent sovereign State, had not been consulted as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution and that its concerns had not been taken into account when the amendments in question, whose exact authors were unknown, had been drafted, she requested that no decision should be taken by the Committee at the current meeting.

17. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that his delegation had been prepared to support the draft resolution, which represented a praiseworthy effort, but that as the amendments presented by Belarus changed the scope of the draft resolution completely, it supported the statements by India and Senegal, particularly with regard to the amendment to the eleventh preambular paragraph, i.e., the deletion of the word "ensure", which weakened considerably the idea of the right to development. His delegation would therefore have the greatest difficulty in accepting the text as so amended.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that if the sponsors had no objection, the Third Committee would decide on draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.77 on Monday, 13 December 1993.

19. Mr. SACIRBEY (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that his delegation's vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.65/Rev.1, entitled "Human rights situation in Sudan" had been an error and that his delegation had wished to abstain in the vote on that draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.